

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of molding an elastomeric article comprising

putting an elastomeric article in a mold,

softening the elastomeric article in the mold by heating the elastomeric article,

pressing the elastomeric article against the mold by pressurizing an inside of the elastomeric article by ~~letting~~ introducing a fluid therein, and

changing the pressure of said fluid in a short cycle so as to beat the elastomeric article against the mold, wherein

said fluid is a heating medium which is introduced into the inside of the elastomeric article to heat the elastomeric article,

the pressure is changed at least two cycles between a maximum pressure P1U for the process of heating the elastomeric article and a lower pressure P1D less than the maximum pressure P1U but not less than 1/2 times the maximum pressure P1U, and

one cycle of the change in the pressure comprises a decrease of short duration of not more than 10 seconds and an increase of short duration of not more than 10 seconds.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1,~~
~~wherein~~ A method of molding an elastomeric article comprising
putting an elastomeric article in a mold,
softening the elastomeric article in the mold by heating the
elastomeric article,
pressing the elastomeric article against the mold by
pressurizing an inside of the elastomeric article by introducing a
fluid therein, and
changing the pressure of said fluid in a short cycle so as to
beat the elastomeric article against the mold, wherein
said fluid is a pressurizing medium which is introduced into
the inside of the elastomeric article to pressurize the inside of
the elastomeric article,
the pressure is changed at least two cycles between a maximum
pressure P2U for the process of pressurizing the elastomeric
article and a lower pressure P2D less than the maximum pressure
P2U, and
one cycle of the change in the pressure comprises
a decrease of short duration of not more than 60 seconds and
an increase of short duration of not more than 60 seconds.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, 2
and 13, wherein

the number of cycles of the change in the pressure is ~~at least~~
~~two but~~ at most fifty.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, 2
and 13, wherein

the number of cycles of the change in the pressure is ~~at least~~
~~two but~~ at most twenty.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, 2
and 13, wherein

the number of cycles of the change in the pressure is ~~at least~~
~~two but~~ at most ten.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, 2
and 13, wherein

said elastomeric article is a pneumatic tire.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~7~~, 2
and 13, wherein

one cycle of the change in the pressure comprises

a decrease of short duration of not more than 10 seconds and
an increase of short duration of not more than 10 seconds.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~10~~ 1,
2 and 13, wherein

the heating medium is a gas having a high heat capacity, and
the pressurizing medium is an inert gas having a heat capacity
lower than the heat capacity of the heating medium.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~9~~
~~10~~ 1 and 13, wherein

in the process of heating the elastomeric article by the
heating medium, after the cyclic change in the pressure of the
heating medium is made, the pressure is kept substantially constant
for a certain length of time.

13. (New) A method of molding an elastomeric article
comprising

putting an elastomeric article in a mold,
softening the elastomeric article in the mold by heating the elastomeric article,

pressing the elastomeric article against the mold by pressurizing an inside of the elastomeric article by introducing a fluid therein, and

changing the pressure of said fluid in a short cycle so as to beat the elastomeric article against the mold, wherein

said fluid is a heating medium which is introduced into the inside of the elastomeric article to heat the elastomeric article and

a pressurizing medium which is introduced into the inside of the elastomeric article to pressurize the inside of the elastomeric article,

the pressure of the heating medium is changed at least two cycles between a maximum pressure P_{1U} for the process of heating the elastomeric article and a lower pressure P_{1D} less than the maximum pressure P_{1U} but not less than $1/2$ times the maximum pressure P_{1U} , wherein one cycle of the change in the pressure comprises a decrease of short duration of not more than 60 seconds and an increase of short duration of not more than 60 seconds, and

the pressure of the pressurizing medium is changed at least two cycles between a maximum pressure P2U for the process of pressurizing the elastomeric article and a lower pressure P2D less than the maximum pressure P2U, wherein one cycle of the change in the pressure comprises a decrease of short duration of not more than 60 seconds and an increase of short duration of not more than 60 seconds.